

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1-5, 23-32, and 37-97 were previously withdrawn from consideration, and are canceled without prejudice. Claims 17, 18, 20, and 33-36 are also canceled without prejudice. Claims 6-16, 19, and 21-22 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 20 stands objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 20 depends from claim 6, and claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 20. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6, as well as claims 7-16, 19, and 21-22 that depend from claim 6, are in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statements

The following three Information Disclosure Statements (IDS's) were submitted by Applicant, but no initialed copy of the Form 1449's has been received. Applicant respectfully requests that initialed copies of the following Form 1449's be returned to Applicant:

- (1) IDS and Form 1449's (4 sheets) submitted October 7, 2003;
- (2) IDS and Form 1449 (1 sheet) submitted February 10, 2004; and
- (3) IDS and Form 1449's (2 sheets) submitted August 2, 2004.

35 U.S.C. § 103

As part of this response, the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 have either been canceled or amended (or had their parent independent claims amended) to include elements indicated to be allowable, as discussed above. These cancellations and amendments have been made in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims. These cancellations and amendments have not been made to overcome, and should not be interpreted as having been made to overcome, the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims in one or more continuation applications.

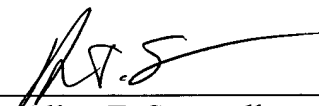
Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 6-16, 19, and 21-22 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 4/12/05

By: 
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